

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

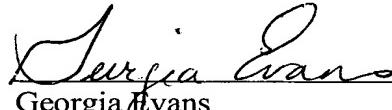
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the telephonic interview with Examiner Lukton held on August 5, 2003. During the interview with Examiner Lukton, applicants discussed the amendments to claim 1 set forth above and the remarks below.

The rejection of claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sejbal et al., "Functionalization of Lupane with Chromium(VI) Oxide. A Remark on the Structure of Clerodone," Collect. Czech. Chem. Commun. 61:1371-1379 (1996) ("Sejbal") is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments. It is the position of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") that Sejbal discloses a compound identical to claim 2 and which falls within the scope of claim 1 for the case of "R" representing methyl. Accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled and claim 1 has been amended to exclude methyl as an "R" group.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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10/17/03
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Peggy Dirmeyer
